Bremer Is Indicted In Wallace Attack

5-24-72

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BALTIMORE, May 23—Arthur Herman Bremer, the 21-year-old former busboy from Milwaukee, was indicted by federal and Maryland grand juries today on a total of 28 counts including attempted murder—in the May 15 shooting of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace and three others.

Bremer was still being held by federal authorities in a jail north of Baltimore today and did not appear in public. Wednesday however, he will be publicly arraigned—formally charged with the crimes and allowed to plead guilty or not guilty—before Chief Judge Edward S. Northrop of U.S. District Court here.

A second arraignment on the state charges is expected in about a week in Upper Marlboro, county seat of Prince George's County in which Wallace was shot. The state charges include attempted murder, which carries a possible penalty of life imprisonment or death.

On the federal level, Bremer is charged with violating the civil rights of a presidential candidate, assaulting a federal officer, illegally transporting a weapon in interstate commerce and making illegal use of a weapon.

The civil rights charge is the first charge under such circumstances brought under a provision of the 1968 Civil Rights Act passed by Congress after the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, according to George Beall, the U.S. Attorney for Maryland.

Beall, a 34-year-old Republican, is moving with unusual speed in the case in what appears to be an attempt to make a national example of the effectiveness of the 1968 federal law, which carries a possible 10-year prison term

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and $10,000 fine upon conviction.

While Beall denied this yesterday saying Bremer is being treated as "a routine criminal case," Prince George's County Executive William W. Gullett, also a Republican, cited the need to bring the new law to national attention as one reason why he ordered his local police, reportedly under protest, to turn Bremer over to federal custody May 15.

Wallace was shot on a Monday afternoon in Laurel, Md., just after he finished a speech to a crowd gathered in a shopping center there. He was still lying with a bullet lodged in his spine yesterday in Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring. His legs are paralyzed and he may never walk again.

Bremer was wrestled to the ground by police and bystanders who said they saw him shoot Wallace with a snub-nosed .38 caliber pistol, which police took as evidence.

Also wounded in the shooting, in which a total of five shots were fired, were Secret Service Agent Nicholas J, Zarvos, Alabama State Trooper E. C. Dothard, and Dora Thompson, a Wallace campaign worker.

Prince George's County police arrested Bremer on the spot and rushed him to a nearby doctor's office. The doctor, whom officials will not identify, recommended that Bremer be taken to Prince George's General Hospital.

It was at the hospital that night, according to sources, that FBI agents first tried to wrest custody of Bremer from an unwilling Prince George's State's Attorney Arthur A. Marshall Jr.

Marshall flatly refused, the sources said, but later that night, Gullett overrode the prosecutor and the FBI hustled Bremer off to the Baltimore County Jail in Towson. At midnight that night, the smiling, sandy-haired young man was presented to a federal—not state—magistrate, who ordered him held on $200,000 bond.

Gullett's decision reportedly angered Marshall, a 41-year-old Democrat.

Gullett's Monday night decision apparently interrupted Marshall's plans so thoroughly that the public defender for Prince George's, Edward P. Camus, who had been summoned by the prosecutor's office was left standing at the county courthouse with nothing to do.

A Baltimore attorney, Benjamin Lipsitz, was appointed to represent Bremer in federal court. Camus is expected to be appointed to represent Bremer on the state charges.

Bremer, who said in his one court appearance to date that he could not afford to pay an attorney, asked to be represented by the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU declined on grounds that the charges against Bremer did not involve civil liberties questions.

"We're ready to go to trial any time," Marshall said yesterday. He said he expects the trial date on state charges to be "some time in the first couple weeks of July."

Judge Northrop is expected to set the federal trial date during Wednesday's arraignment in Baltimore.

Both Beall and Marshall denied they are in a race with each other to try the case first.

It is generally believed that the national news media will focus more heavily on a first Bremer trial than a second.

While it is the normal arrangement for federal prisoners to be kept in the Prince George's County Jail during trials in the county, it has not yet been decided whether Bremer will be kept there in the event of a trial on the state charges.

There have been 19 escapes from the jail during the past two years.

County Sheriff Don Edward Ansell, who is in charge of security arrangements in the courthouse, said, "I'd rather have him kept in Baltimore County than here . . . I've got enough problems."

Associated Press

U.S. Attorney George Beall telephones Prince George's County State's Attorney Arthur Marshall to read him the federal indictment of Arthur H. Bremer, charged with the May 15 shooting of Gov. George Wallace.

However it is a 45-minute drive to Upper Marlboro from Towson, where Bremer is being kept in isolation and guarded by five FBI agents. Nor is the jail there—a brick building converted from county offices into a jail—considered especially secure. There have been several escapes from the jail.

An FBI agent at the jail said today that Bremer was "fine" and "causing no problems."

Bremer was charged by the state with attempted murder, assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to maim, assault and battery, illegally carrying a handgun and illegally using a handgun.

He was charged with four counts of each of these offenses because he allegedly shot the four people wounded in the shooting.

The alleged handgun violations stem from Maryland's two-month-old handgun control law.

Under Maryland law, a judge may impose any sentence upon conviction of an attempted murder charge that he does not consider "cruel and unusual."